

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 21-30 and 32-41 are pending.

Claims 21-25 and 36-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa, U.S. Patent No. 6,657,680 in view of Barrick, U.S. Patent No. 5,095,606.

Independent claim 21 recites in part “plural support holders formed of a heat-melting polymer material, each of the support holders being directly mounted to one of the plural light valves by heat-fusion of the polymer material and being fixed to the synthesizing unit.” See also independent claims 26 and 36.

An illustrative embodiment of the recited “support holder” is very clearly shown in the cutaway view of Fig. 6 of the pending specification. See also the perspective view of Fig. 5B. A light valve holder 330 is mounted directly to the light valve 320, and in turn is mounted to the prism 600. Three such light valve holder/light valve components are provided, each for a primary color (R, G, B). The prism 600 synthesizes the modulated primary color components to produce a resulting image.

By comparison, Takizawa shows a liquid crystal panel 441 (Fig. 10) mounted to retaining frame 81. The retaining frame 81 is fixed to a frame member 82 via fixing pins 83. The frame member 82 is attached to a prism 45. *Col. 9, lines 16-20, col. 10, lines 4-12 and lines 21-22.* Takizawa does not show a support holder component to which the light valve is directly mounted, or that the support holder component is further mounted to the prism. Instead, Takizawa shows a multitude of components (retaining frame, frame member, fixing pins, and so on) which cooperate to position the liquid crystal 441 relative to the prism 45.

Barrick was cited for showing heat-fusion. However, Barrick is not directed to light projection devices. Barrick therefore does not suggest a support holder component to which the light valve is directly mounted, or that the support holder component is fixed to the prism, as in claim 1.

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PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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